

HOWDEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1940.



HOWDEN:
HOLROYD & ASQUITH, PRINTERS.



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HOWDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Howden
Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- 1.—Area (in acres) 69,963.
- 2.—Estimate of the average population of the area during 1940—11,550.
- 3.—Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1940 according to rate books—3,361.
- 4.—Rateable Value—£34,452.
- 5.—Sum represented by a penny rate—£129/8/6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

The chief Industry throughout the district is Agriculture ; other employment being provided by the Ouse Chemical Works, the Creosote Works, Brickyards, Railways and Market Gardening.

The Area has shared in the general improvement throughout the Country, and there has been a further decrease in unemployment.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

A part time Medical Officer of Health, who acts as Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

A full time Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor with certificates A.R.San.I. and M.S.I.A.

A State Registered Nurse Matron and two Fever trained Nurses at the Isolation Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M	F
Live Births—Legitimate	165	77	88
Illegitimate	18	7	11
	—	—	—
Total	183	84	99
Still Births—Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Total	5	4	1

Birth Rate for the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 population—15.8.

Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population—14.6.

DEATHS.

	M	F	Total
All Deaths during 1940	101	60	161

Death Rate per 1,000 population—13.9.

Death Rate per 1,000 population, England and Wales—14.3.

Howden Rural Area:

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—0.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—1.

Maternal Mortality in the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Births :

Puerperal Sepsis—0.

Other Puerperal Causes—5.3.

Total—5.3.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales per 1,000 Births :

Puerperal Sepsis— .52.

Other Puerperal Causes—1.64.

Total—2.16 per 1,000 Births.

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—10.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Births—54.6.

England and Wales per 1,000 Births—55.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—6.

Deaths from Measles—0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)—0.

Deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages)—4.

Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)—1.

These Vital Statistics show that the Health of the Howden Rural Area is very good. The Birth Rate exceeds the Death Rate by 1.5 per 1,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—All examinations of Clinical Material are carried out at the Laboratory of the Hull Royal Infirmary and are available to all practitioners in the Rural Area at the combined expense of the Rural District Council and the County Council.

In addition to this the travelling Laboratory at Pocklington has been very helpful with emergency examinations.

During the past year the following tests were made :—

Diphtheria—Primary Swabs 154.

Positive 38.

Negative 116.

Tuberculosis—Primary Examinations 12.

Positive 3.

Negative 9.

Other Primary Examinations 7.

The reason for the apparently large number of cases of Diphtheria in 1940 was that a large number of Diphtheria carriers were discovered in the Area. The actual number of true Diphtheria cases was very small.

Apart from the widespread epidemic of Measles there was very little increase in the incidence of Infectious Diseases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—An Ambulance for the conveyance of patients to hospital is available at Beverley.

Ambulances for their own cases are kept at the Isolation Hospital and the Goole Bartholomew Hospital.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—An Infant Welfare Centre was re-opened in Howden in January, 1938, and has been very well attended. It is very satisfactory that the advantages of the Centre are being so well appreciated.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—During the year 1936, the Mid-Wives Act came into operation, and Midwives were appointed to attend cases in definite districts, so that a Maternity Nurse is available for any case within the Howden Rural Area. This is a great improvement, of which full advantage should be taken.

HOSPITALS.—In Howden Town a Public Assistance Institution for the sick poor, and an Isolation Hospital with 20 beds for Infectious Diseases. Shipton Hospital is available for Small Pox Cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The County Sanatorium at Raywell and a Tuberculosis clinic at Selby.

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.—Goole, Selby York, Hull and Leeds. There is no ambulance available for the conveyance of patients to any hospital, except the Goole Bartholomew Hospital Ambulance, which is only available for patients admitted to that Institution.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following notifications of Infectious Diseases were received:—

	1940.	1939.
Scarlet Fever	32	22
Diphtheria	38	9
Whooping Cough	14	
Erysipelas	2	5
Measles	245	
Pneumonia	38	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1

SCHOOLS.

All Schools are under the County Council, with the exception of one small private school in Howden. Reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Medical Officer of Health of absentees from school suffering from Infective sickness.

WATER.

The completion of the Water Schemes for the Rural Area, and the linking up of these schemes, has been a great boon to the District.

The consumption of water in the Area continues to increase, showing that its benefits are appreciated.

Now that the Country is at War, and there is a possibility of water mains being damaged by bombs, a warning is necessary as regards the possibility of contamination of the water supply.

So long as the water in the mains is under pressure the possibility of contamination is negligible. If, however, it is necessary to cut off the water for repair, contaminated material will ooze into the broken system, and it will be necessary to run a considerable amount of water to waste, to clear out this possible source of disease.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WIGGLESWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.